

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-04 OMB-01 PA-04 PM-07 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07

DRC-01 /153 W

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R 021815Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T USNATO 4239

E.O. 11652: AGDS 12-31-80

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: REVISION OF MBFR DATA: NATO FORCES

REF: A. VIENNA 0086 B. STATE 161952

BEGIN SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO REQUEST FOR MISSION VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF INTERFACING NATO DATA BASES ON NATO FORCES INTO A SINGLE PERIODICALLY UPDATED MBFR MASTER DATA BASE. END SUMMARY.

1. NATO CURRENTLY DRAWS ITS DATA ON NATO FORCES FROM NATIONAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE NATO FORCE PLANNING DATA BASE AND FROM NATIONAL REPLIES TO THE ANNUAL DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE (DPQ). THE FORCE PLANNING DATA BASE IS CONSIDERED "THE MASTER DATA BASE" FROM WHICH INFORMATION IS DRAWN FOR NATO STUDIES ON SUBJECTS LIKE MBFR.

2. IN MISSION VIEW, A ROUTINE UPDATING OF DATA ON NATO FORCES FOR MBFR PURPOSES BASED ON NATIONAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE FORCE PLANNING DATA BASE AND NATIONAL REPLIES TO DPQ WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT MEET THE NEEDS OF ALLIANCE MBFR NEGOTIATORS. NATIONAL FORCE PLANNING DATA BASE SUBMISSIONS AND RESPONSES TO DPQ ARE OFTEN LATE OR INCOMPLETE (THIS IS CAUSED BY A VARIETY OF REASONS: LACK OF TECH-
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NICAL KNOW-HOW, INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN NATIONAL AND NATO DATA BASES AND TARDY SUBMISSION OF DPQ BECAUSE OF UNRESOLVED POLITICAL QUESTIONS, I.E. UNFINISHED DEFENSE WHITE PAPER OR CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT).

3. TO MEET OPTIMAL PROCEDURE OUTLINED IN REFTEL A AND ENDORSED IN REFTEL B, MISSION RELUCTANTLY SUGGESTS A SPECIAL MBFR QUESTIONNAIRE (BY COUNTRY) ON NATO FORCES (RELUCTANTLY BECAUSE WE ARE NORMALLY OPPOSED TO PROLIFERATION OF DATA QUESTIONNAIRES). SPECIAL QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD COVER ALL DATA ON NATO FORCES REQUIRED FOR MBFR PURPOSES AND BE SENT TO CAPITALS, TWICE A YEAR, 4 TO 6 WEEKS PRIOR TO DUE DATE; EXACT DATE FOR FORWARDING QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD BE LINKED TO TIMING OF MCM DOCUMENT ON MBFR DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES. UNDER CURRENT PROCEDURES, NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) DATA EXPERTS PROVIDE CHAIRMAN, MBFR DATA SUBGROUP, WITH INFORMATION ON NATO FORCES. MISSION PREFERS THAT DATA CONTINUE TO BE PROCESSED IN THIS MANNER RATHER THAN ESTABLISHING SEPARATE MBFR DATA CHANNELS. HENCE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT IS (WORKING CLOSELY WITH CHAIRMAN, MBFR DATA SUBGROUP) BE CUSTODIAN OF SPECIAL MBFR QUESTIONNAIRE ON NATO FORCES. IF WASHINGTON DECIDED TO PROPOSE A SPECIAL QUESTIONNAIRE,

MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT IDEA AND SUBSTANCE OF QUESTIONNAIRE BE FLOATED AT SAME TIME.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO04239
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 AGDS 12-31-80
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740888/abbrywmd.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. VIENNA 0086 B. STATE 161952
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVISION OF MBFR DATA: NATO FORCES
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO MBFR VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005